

Message Text

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15

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 /087 W

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R 221004Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7153

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 1428

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, TH

SUBJECT: PETROLEUM: THAI-INDONESIAN PETROLEUM DISCUSSIONS

REF: A) BANGKOK 26627

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. "NATION" JAN 21 QUOTE GROUP CAPTAIN WIMOL
WIRIYAWIT, SECRETARY OF THE NATIONAL PETROLEUM BOARD, AS SAYING
INDONESIA HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO SELL THAILAND 50 MILLION
BARRELS OF CRUDE OIL--A ONE-YEAR SUPPLY--AT CONCESSIONAL
"FRIENDSHIP" PRICE. REPORT ADDED THAT PRESIDENT SUHARTO WILL
SEND "SPECIAL ENVOY" TO BANGKOK LATER IN WEEK TO CONCLUDE
FORMAL AGREEMENT.

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2. CAPT. WIMON CONFIRMED TO EMBASSY THAT RTG IS INTERESTED
IN PURCHASING INDONESIAN CRUDE ON GOVERNMENT -TO-GOVERNMENT
BASIS, HAS HAD DISCUSSIONS ON MATTER RECENTLY WITH GOI, AND
PLANS TO PURSUE ISSUE IN ADDITIONAL TALKS LATER ON. HE DENIED,
HOWEVER, THAT TWO SIDES HAVE REACHED "AGREEMENT IN
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PRINCIPLE" OR THAT "SPECIAL ENVOY" IS COMING TO BANGKOK.

HE BRANDED "NATION" REPORT, BASED ON BRIEF TELEPHONE
INTERVIEW, AS "90 PERCENT WRONG."

3. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT, DEPUTY MINISTER OF INDUSTRY
WATTANA ATSAWAHEM, STILL HOPING TO FORESTALL OIL FIRMS
HERE FROM PASSING ALONG TO CONSUMERS THE COST OF OPEC'S
OCTOBER PRICE INCREASE (REFTEL, HAS FLOATED A PLAN FOR
GOVERNMENT MONOPOLY OF CRUDE OIL IMPORTS. WATTANA TOLD
PRESS THAT THAILAND'S REFINERS (ESSO AND SUMMIT AMONG THEM)
IMPORT MIDDLE EAST VIA PARENT COMPANIES IN U.S. AND PANAMA,
WITH RESULT THAT PRICES BECOME UNNECESSARILY INFLATED
BY TIME CRUDE REACHES THAILAND. PRESS JAN 21 QUOTE LT.
GEN SAMRAN KHIROTE, HEAD OF THE ENERGY DEPARTMENT IN THE
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, AS SUPPORTING MONOPOLY PROPOSAL.
ACCORDING PRESS, GEN. SAMRAN HAS SUBMITTED PLAN TO GOVERNMENT,
THROUGH MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, TO HAVE HIS DEPARTMENT'S
MILITARY OIL AND FUEL ORGANIZATION (OFO) HANDLE ALL CRUDE
OIL IMPORTS.
MASTERS

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